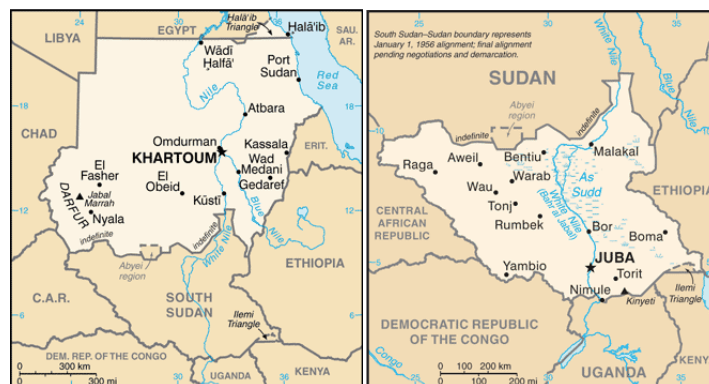


Sudan – South Sudan Relations Analysis: January 16, 2013 – February 19, 2013



Border Tensions and Diminished Hopes for Cooperation

Jonathan Rozen

Tensions have been high between Sudan and South Sudan. Early in February, South Sudan responded to aggressive troop movements along the northern side of the border with a declaration that they would respond to defend any incursion.ⁱ On February 14th, an alleged Sudan Armed Forces air attack was conducted against the Unity state of South Sudan.ⁱⁱ Khartoum consistently denies these allegations; however, the head of the UNMISS Hilde F. Johnson confirmed the attack and explained that the strikes were made on the Dar and Jau locations.ⁱⁱⁱ Khartoum representatives have also announced that the SAF has confiscated fifty trucks of consumer goods on their way to South Sudan.^{iv} This renews conceptions of the trade embargo which existed before the September 27, 2012 Addis Ababa agreement.^v Confrontation peaked as SAF helicopters violated South Sudanese air space and border clashes occurred between the Blue and Upper Nile States.^{vi} The American embassy in Sudan has called for the two sides to refrain from actions that will undermine border security, and Juba-Khartoum talks that were scheduled for February 21 have been cancelled.^{vii}

The Abyei region continues to plague relations between Sudan and South Sudan. With the October 2013 status referendum creeping ever closer, Sudan has increased its campaign to settle Misseriya nomads in the region.^{viii} This campaign heightened tensions even further when, on February 10, Juba accused Khartoum of amassing troops on the Abyei border and developing a false humanitarian mission to further nomad settlement.^{ix} Furthermore, the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee (AJOC) failed to reach a compromise regarding the make up of the regional police force.^x Sudan declared Juba as the cause for the failure, citing non-commitment and a proposal specifically designed to obstruct negotiations.^{xi}

While the cross border violence is an alarming development in the direct relations between Khartoum and Juba, the new easterly directed pipeline, which South Sudan has planned the construction of for October 2013, will likely prove most influential for the future of cooperation between Sudan and South Sudan.^{xii} The Ethiopia-Djibouti pipeline rout will allow Juba to side step the oil export through Sudan; a level of cooperation that was made conditional upon progress on disputed issues.^{xiii} With this major factor of cooperation removed, the resolution of issues which necessitate concessions from both sides, notably the Abyei region, will become much more difficult.

ⁱ Al Jazeera, independent news network, article dated 12 February 2013, in English) South Sudan Accuses Sudan of Troops build-up.

ⁱⁱ (Radio Miraya1, independent radio and news site funded by UNMISS & an NGO, date not indicated, in English) South Sudan accuses Sudan of renewed bombing.

ⁱⁱⁱ (Radio Tamazuj, daily news programming for Sudanese borderlands, article dated 15 February 2013, in English) SA F deny troop build-up or clashes with SPL A., 11

^{iv} (The Sudan Tribune, independent, non-profit online news, Paris, article dated 15 February 2013, in English) South Sudan Accuses Khartoum of Fresh Bombardments in Unity State.

^v (The Sudan Tribune, independent, non-profit online news, Paris, article dated 15 February 2013, in English) South Sudan Accuses Khartoum of Fresh Bombardments in Unity State.

^{vi} (The Sudan Tribune, independent, non-profit online news, Paris, article dated 15 February 2013, in English) South Sudan Accuses Khartoum of Fresh Bombardments in Unity State.

^{vii} (The Sudan Tribune, independent, non-profit online news, Paris, article dated 15 February 2013, in English) South Sudan Accuses Khartoum of Fresh Bombardments in Unity State., (The Sudan Tribune, independent, non-profit online news, Paris, article dated 13 February 2013, in English) Khartoum-Juba Security Talks on Security Postponed Indefinitely.

^{viii} (Radio Miraya, independent radio and news site funded by UNMISS & an NGO, date not indicated, in English) Sudan settling citizens in Abyei, says Luka Biong.

^{ix} (The Sudan Tribune, independent, non-profit online news, Paris, article dated 10 February 2013, in English) South Sudan Accuses Sudan of Amassing Troops in Abyei Region.

^x (The Sudan Tribune, independent, non-profit online news, Paris, article dated 5 February 2013, in English) Sudan and S. Sudan disagree on set-up of Abyei police service.

^{xi} (The Sudan Tribune, independent, non-profit online news, Paris, article dated 5 February 2013, in English) Sudan and S. Sudan disagree on set-up of Abyei police service.

^{xii} (The Sudan Tribune, independent, non-profit online news, Paris, article dated 9 February 2013, in English) South Sudan's Pipeline Construction begins October- Minister.

^{xiii} 4, Previous Sudan – South Sudan Analysis Reports